

Community Forum
January 13, 2004
Meeting Summary

Overview

The final City of Atlanta Transportation and Circulation Study community forum was held January 13, 2004, at the Collins United Methodist Church. Twenty six community members, City staff members, and team members attended the event. The goals of the community forum were to:

1. Provide an update on the project status
2. Present final draft plan
3. Prioritize recommendations

The public was notified of the community forum in several ways, including a press release, an e-mail blast, and flyers. In addition, the City's web site contained information about the study and the public meeting. Handouts included an agenda, a summary of the community workshop, and a draft of the Executive Summary.

The meeting format included a presentation, a question/answer session, and a work session where meeting participants were provided an opportunity to prioritize the recommendations.

Presentation

Maureen Gresham reviewed tasks completed to date, which included:

§ Public Involvement

- Three community meetings
- Three Advisory Committee meetings
- Interviews

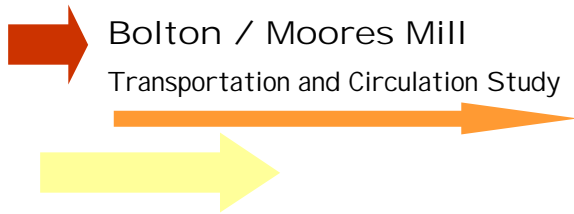
§ Data collection

§ Existing conditions

§ Analysis/recommendations

§ Final Plan documentation

Dan Dobry provided an overview of the final draft recommendations and noted that recommendations included:



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- § Circulation routes
- § Traffic congestion management
- § New truck routing
- § Intersection improvements

Specific recommendations included:

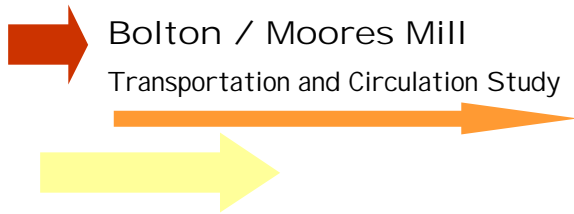
- § Bolton/Hollywood Intersection Improvement – realigns to a perpendicular intersection with Bolton Road; Hollywood cul-de-sac
- § Bolton/Marietta Boulevard Intersection Improvement– Relocates Adams Road and becomes right-in/right-out intersection; Moore’s Mill Road extension to Marietta Boulevard is included.
- § Bolton Road/Marietta Road – corrects alignment and relocates intersection; avoids planned development at corner of Bolton/Marietta.
- § Heavy Vehicle Route No. 5a and 5b– A proposed new roadway connecting to Bolton Road for trucks; removes trucks from Bolton Road east of James Jackson Parkway; approximate cost is \$12 million.
- § Heavy Vehicle Route Alternate 2a and 2b – new, based on input from community.

Mr. Dobry noted that all intersection improvements include upgraded sidewalks, crosswalks, and pedestrian features.

Mr. Dobry commented that the heavy vehicle/truck routing strategies will require City enforcement and signage. The combination of strategies is important in realizing the total improvement.

Mr. Dobry noted that a variety of traffic calming measures are recommended for specific roadways, however several types of traffic calming were analyzed for applicability to the study area. These included:

- § Chicanes
- § Speed tables
- § Roundabouts
- § Traffic circle



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§ Center island

§ Textured pavement

Ms. Gresham noted that next steps included:

§ Approval from the NPU, CDHR, then City Council

§ Implementation including TIP/LCI grant applications, preliminary engineering, coordinate with Atlanta Police, coordinate with railroads

§ Construction

Findings

Question/Answer

Question: Was the long time frame a big concern when recommending the construction of new east-west roadways better connecting industry to the interstate highways?

Answer: Not really. Some issues that were identified include impacts (noise) near residential uses.

Question: What is a chicane?

Answer: A median that requires drivers to slow down to navigate around – Marietta Road –

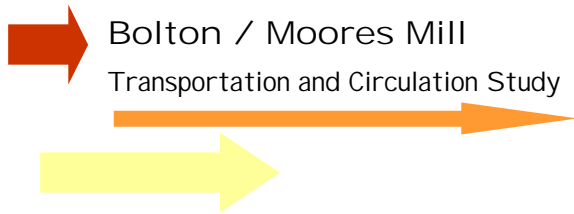
Question: How many responses were received to measure support for these recommendations?

Answer: Not many. That information is documented in the memo describing the December community meeting.

Question: What is the rationale for dual turn lanes on Marietta Boulevard?

Answer: Those are on southbound Marietta Boulevard.

Response: Thanks, I misunderstood.



Question: Previous studies show that Bolton Road pavement is seriously damaged. What is the strategy to fix that?

Answer: The City's Public Works Department is looking into that and weighing options.

Question: How many lanes are being planned on Atlanta Road south of the river?

Answer: Four lanes – to match what is planned to the north.

Question: Have railroads been involved?

Answer: They have been informed, but have not attended any meetings or sent any input.

Question: Why does project 5a not go directly to the interstate rather than through residential areas?

Answer: The final alignment will be defined in PE and design phase.

Questions: Is there a need to look at truck routes going east of Marietta Boulevard?

Answer: Perhaps. We did not address because it is outside the study area. Also, the study recommendations do not significantly alter or impact traffic to and from that direction.

Response: There is truck traffic in that direction that needs to be addressed.

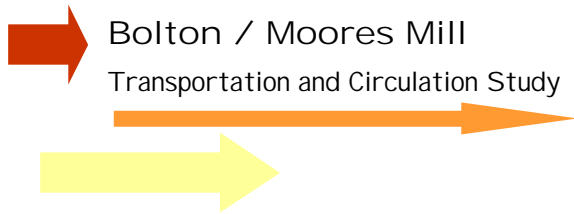
Question: How was this study communicated to the public?

Answer: NPU's and their committees, posters, and fliers.

Comment: Thanks to City staff. This effort has generally been a good expenditure, and well done.

Comment: Disagreement with recommended intersection concept at Bolton Road/Hollywood Road. There seems to be many impacts necessary. I am unaware of any accident history at that location.

Question: Do you have some measure of how feasible the projects are?



Answer: No. They are all feasible. Some will be more difficult than others, of course.

Comment: We have a good representation here tonight. We should vote as to the ranking of all projects, and as to whether we support each project.

Comment: The short-term projects are relatively less expensive than some other projects scheduled earlier. Perhaps the less costly projects could be phased earlier than proposed.

Comment: These projects will take a long time. Certain intersections (like Adams/Bolton) are unsafe now, and need attention – like an all-way stop or traffic signal.

Comment: Several intersections have not been addressed – (Johnson Road/Marietta).
Improve those places first where you **want** trucks to travel.
(Perry/W. Marietta/Johnson Road)
(W. Marietta/Marietta Boulevard)

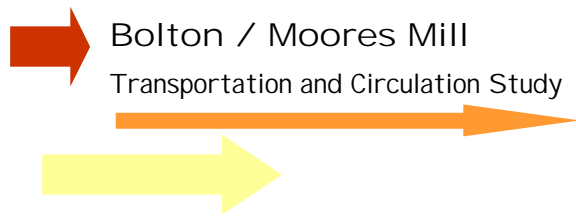
Response: The Perry/West Marietta Road and W. Marietta/Marietta Boulevard intersections are included in project 2.

Written Comments

§ In addition to infrastructure improvements, this study identified two additional strategies that are key to the success of the overall circulation plan. These include coordination with heavy vehicle users in the area, specifically Norfolk Southern and development of a city ordinance that will allow actual enforcement of the proposed “thru-trucks prohibited” signage proposed on designated streets.

§ Intersection improvement at Adams and Marietta Road should be considered a project.

§ Big priority, as an interim measures to slow down truck and other traffic on Marietta Road, place three-way stop signs at Adams Drive and Marietta Road. This is an extremely dangerous intersection of a 100 percent residential streets onto a heavily traveled truck route. Not only is there constant heavy truck traffic, but it almost always exceed the speed limit. A 3 way stop would make this intersection safer and also slow traffic down.



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Prioritization

Decision for participants to write down their recommended priorities tonight. The study team will be accepting those until January 21, 2005.